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By:

LINDA E. HASTINGS

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*PLEASE ENTER*  
*[Signature]* 10/2004  
**Attorney Docket No.: NEKU 19.181 (100806-00056)**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor: Eiki HASHIMOTO

Serial No.: 10/015,209

Filed: November 16, 2001

Title: **SEMICONDUCTOR CIRCUIT DESIGNING APPARATUS  
AND A SEMICONDUCTOR CIRCUIT DESIGNING METHOD  
IN WHICH THE NUMBER OF STEPS IN A CIRCUIT DESIGN  
AND A LAYOUT DESIGN IS REDUCED**

Examiner: Annette M. Thompson

Group Art Unit: 2825

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116**

SIR :

In response to the Office Action mailed on April 20, 2004, the period for responding thereto having been set to expire after July 20, 2004, please amend the subject application as follows: